Numb. CLXVI.

# The GUARDIAN.

*——aliquisque malo fuit usus in illo.* Ov. Met.

*Monday, September* 21. 1713.

CHarity is a Virtue of the Heart, and not of the Hands, says an old Writer. Gifts and Alms are the Expressions, not the Essence of this Virtue. A Man may bestow great Sums on the Poor and Indigent without being Charitable, and may be Charitable when he is not able to bestow any thing. Charity is therefore a Habit of good Will, or Benevolence, in the Soul, which disposes us to the Love, Assistance, and Relief of Mankind, especially of those who stand in need of it. The poor Man who has this excellent frame of Mind, is no less intitled to the Reward of this Virtue than the Man who founds a College. For my own part, I am Charitable to an Extravagance this way. I never saw an Indigent Person in my Life, without reaching out to him some of this imaginary Relief. I cannot but Sympathise with every one I meet that is in Affliction; and if my Abilities were equal to my Wishes, there shou'd be neither Pain nor Poverty in the World.

To give my Reader a right Notion of my self in this Particular, I shall present him with the secret History of one of the most remarkable Parts of my Life.

I was once engaged in search of the Philosophers Stone. It is frequently observed of Men who have been busied in this Pursuit, that tho' they have failed in their principal Design, they have however made such Discoveries in their way to it, as have sufficiently recompenced their Inquiries. In the same manner, tho' I cannot boast of my Success in that Affair, I do not repent of my engaging in it, because it produced in my Mind, such an habitual Exercise of Charity as made it much better than perhaps it would have been, had I never been lost in so pleasing a Delusion.

As I did not question but I should soon have a new *Indies* in my Possession, I was perpetually taken up in considering how to turn it to the Benefit of Mankind. In order to it I employed a whole Day in walking about this great City, to find out proper Places for the Erection of Hospitals. I had likewise entertained that Project, which has since succeeded in another Place, of building Churches at the Court end of the Town, with this only difference, that instead of Fifty, I intended to have built a Hundred, and to have seen 'em all finished in less than one Year.

I had with great Pains and Application got together a List of all the *French* Protestants; and by the best Accounts I could come at, had Calculated the value of all those Estates and Effects which every one of them had left in his own Country for the Sake of his Religion, being fully determined to make it up to him, and return some of them the double of what they had lost.

As I was one Day in my Laboratory, my Operator, who was to fill my Coffers for me, and used to foot it from the other End of the Town every Morning, complain'd of a Sprain in his Leg, that he had met with over-against St. *Clement*'s-Church. This so affected me, that as a standing

Mark

(Price Two Pence.)